

DHS graduate volunteers in Ghana school

Madeline Farquharson travels the globe for college

BY JILLIAN HARRINGTON
CLIPPER INTERN

In 2013, Madeline Farquharson embarked on the adventure that is her education.

Upon graduating from Duxbury High School, Farquharson was accepted into the New York University of Shanghai. Now a junior, she is currently studying in Accra, Ghana and plans to spend her remaining semesters of college in Sydney, London, and Shanghai. "I strongly believe the world has so much to offer that a student like myself simply can't access it without seeing it all," Farquharson said of her inspiration to study abroad.



Madeline Farquharson (second from the right) and some of her classmates from schools in New York, Abu Dhabi, and Shanghai.

Although she loved the bustling excitement that Shanghai offered, Farquharson was looking for a change of pace, and NYU Accra has given her just that. As a result of the Ebola scare, this year's semester class had only seven students enrolled. Nonetheless, she appreciates these small, intimate classes and has found Accra's culture as a whole entirely thrilling. Over the past few weeks, Farquharson has traveled to Ghana's cities and rural villages, visited the infamous slave castle in Elmina and studied modern African literature with worldrenowned poet and academic Kofi Anyidoho. However, Farquharson says she has gotten the most out of the volunteer work she does with the Noyaa school that brings accessible education to children in the poorest parts of the city. "Coming from Duxbury, education has always seemed like something I had a right to, rather than a privilege, but working with Noyaa has changed that opinion for me," she said. Unfortunately, due to a lack of funding, Noyaa, which is home to more than 70 students, is at risk of closing in the near future. In an aim to raise awareness, Farquharson created the YouTube documentary "Noyaa: A Dream for Education." Since the video's release, over \$3,000 has been raised for the cause on its Go-FundMe page.

With her major in Integrated Humanities, Farquharson plans to spend her post-graduate years teaching in Shanghai as a Global Academic Fellow for the university. She eventually wants to return to Duxbury to teach high school.



The children of Noyaa, the school for which Madeline Farquharson volunteers.

“I believe that when you are at that high school age it is absolutely vital that you have a strong support system from quality teachers who show you that you can be successful no matter what seems to be in your way,” Farquharson said. “Education is so monumentally important, and I have been honored to see how it functions on three continents so far. I can only hope to see more, grow more, and then return to the place that set me on my journey to where I am now. I carry with me my identity of being a Duxbury resident and the sense of community that my hometown gave me wherever I go.”



A traditional home in Tamale in Northern Ghana.

Photos courtesy of Madeline Farquharson